Ford Corbett

Web 2.0

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World Aspirations

Nuclear power is a bountiful source of energy, that if used with the proper designs, could be a major source of our nation’s energy. Most nuclear reactors use uranium, there is nothing wrong with that but they can still meltdown, even though with the new generation IV models it is very difficult for such a terrible accident to happen. Thorium Molten Salt Reactors (MSR) can not meltdown, it is impossible for one to do so. The engineers could walk away from the reactor and a meltdown would not occur. Thorium is also much more plentiful than uranium. The United States according to the World Nuclear Association has the word’s second most thorium deposits, with a large vein found in Idaho. Also, excluding the U.S. five of the seven countries with the most deposits are somewhat friendly towards the U.S. Thorium could also provide more energy than uranium and all the world’s fossil fuels combined. It would take 3.5 million pounds of coal, or 300 pounds of uranium to equal the output of one pound of thorium. MSR’s are smaller than conventional power plants because they do not need the cooling towers required by a conventional reactor. This also means the electrical output is lower. This would mean more power plants. So having numerous reactors could cut transmission loss, which on the present grid is up to 30%. The Chinese have already embraced the technology with a program destined with near term deployment with a decade. The opportunity is right in front us, we have the technology it is here and now, all we have to do is reach out and grab it.